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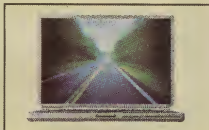
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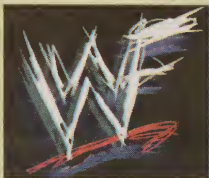
Rock the Block. It Rocked. Check it out. p.7.



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Like many other people these Graphic Design student come to The Zone to complete school work

CANADIAN CULTURE SHOCK

By Joshua Li

Every fall, there are thousands of new students with their heavy backpacks and high ambitions flooding into all three campuses of George Brown College. New school and new environment; new people and new experiences. On top of that, those who are from overseas have an additional lesson to learn: Canadian culture.

Students new to Canada and frosh students alike can feel dissatisfied with their introduction to the GBC. Perhaps their expectations are too high or the frosh week experience seems overrated. New arrivals can feel terribly isolated from the excitement that is going on around them this happens in Universities and colleges all over the world.

Tommy arrived in Toronto

from France only 10 days ago and the Canadian culture shock is in full swing. His cultures and lifestyles have many similarities but the differences are intriguing and the experiences of a newly arrived international student are certainly worth documenting. It is a well-known fact that Toronto is both culturally and socially diverse, but how does the actual newcomer fit in to the hustle and bustle of such a hectic city?

Time generally brings an awareness of one's confidence and an increased understanding of the college experience. Imagine trying to deal with this as well as a new mysterious country. I can tell you it is not easy. As we watch the steady student-population increase in and around St. James and Casa Loma, especially with world-

wide newcomers, let us set aside a moment to think about their culture shock.

International students are perhaps in a better position than Canadian-born students because it is assumed, that overseas students know very little about the society they are entering. They were informed of Canadian "ways" to help them settle in. For example, the importance of good eye contact, and even the consequences of winking could mean something totally different in another country.

These are pieces of information that a newcomer could use and the International Student Center deserves a huge pat on the back for all the work they put in every year with the crowds of new internationals starting at a new school. Tommy spoke to me in precise

English." If it wasn't for the free food BBQ's, I know that many of us wouldn't have eaten properly all week!" What a surprise and what a wake up call!

First impressions? Tommy agreed that the school has played a big role in helping people find their niche and feel comfortable in Toronto. Having asked around in the first week of school most exchange and international students already talk about their affection for Toronto. By now, many people have experienced the cosmopolitan atmosphere, the sense of personal security and the general friendliness of people in town.

George Brown College represents the diversity of Toronto. Everyone should feel as safe and secure in the city as they do on campus.

REMAIN CALM!

By Allan Stokell

It's been almost two weeks since the tragedy in the United States.

In that time, we have all been drawn to the visuals of mass destruction and carnage. We have been torn between sympathy for the victims and their families and anger towards the perpetrators of such an obscenity.

At the September 13th meeting of the Dialog Collective, the following was read into the minutes:

"The Dialog Collective mourns the victims of the

recent terrorist attack on the United States.

While the world recovers from the effects of the fall-out of this terrible event, it is important that we do not unfairly pre-judge any particular group.

At this time we encourage all Collective members to reflect on this tragedy and in their own way remember the dead."

At George Brown we have a wonderful mix of cultures. Each one of the students bring special things to our student community. At this time of crisis I believe it is important to stay focused on

what is our community and what is stands for.

I am especially proud of the Student Association Mission Statement and the Dialog Collective Statement of Purpose. They both speak of our commitment to our College and the students.

I would ask that when we discuss the events that have happened that we do so in an atmosphere of openness and accord. Singling out any group for unfair criticism does nothing but open the gaping maw of racism. People committed the atrocities. Not religions or sects

or races or creeds.

Trying to connect GBC students to the people responsible for this tragedy is unfair to all students.

I urge you to remain calm and think of measured response rather than revenge. If you feel hostility towards a particular group, try to get closer and see how they are reacting to this tragedy.

Strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being.

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First Year Rep-St. James
Allied Health Rep-Casa Loma
Community Services-Nightingale
Community Services-St. James
Creative Arts-Casa Loma



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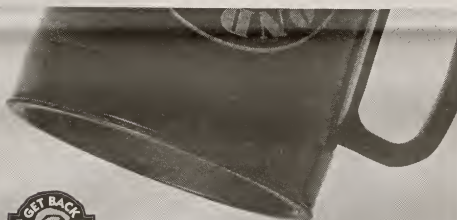
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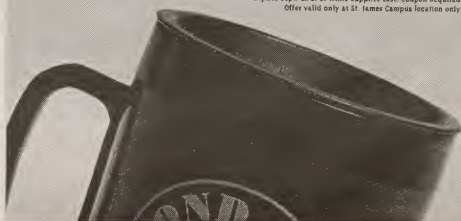


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Dialog Collective

The Dialog Collective, the publishers of the Dialog newspaper, creates many part-time jobs and honoraria positions for George Brown College students. The cost of producing a bi-weekly newspaper is in part defrayed by advertising revenue. Occasionally, some advertisers, products, and services do not reflect the policies of the Student Association of George Brown College. The Collective reviews advertising policy from time to time at our weekly meetings. Students concerned about advertising which encourages student debt, bad health habits, or having other concerns about specific ads are encouraged to attend these meetings. If you wish to be on our agenda, contact us by phone at (416) 415-2710 fax: (416) 415-2491 or at dialog@canada.com

Options expressed in Dialog are not necessarily those of the Dialog Collective, the Student Association of George Brown College, or its editorial staff. Dialog will not publish any material that attempts to incite violence or hatred against individuals or groups, particularly based on race, national origin, ethnicity, colour, gender, sexual orientation, age, or disability.

Canadian University Press
Dialog is a Member of the Canadian University Press (CUP), our national advertising agency is Campus Plus.



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Sera Gordon

Letters

This is a thank you letter to show you how much I appreciate working with the Dialog Collective.

To be honest I didn't really feel like working in that small office. But as time went on, I got to know quite a few of the staff and people at George Brown College, and I started to like the environment.

I think I had the same hands-on experience that a journalism student would have - maybe more. I am sure if I were at Centennial College, I wouldn't have learned as much, even though they have a fairly large journalism program, whereas George Brown's Dialog relies largely on volunteers. I have learned a lot through the people I worked with at my time at George Brown. I'm writing this letter so that I can thank everybody.

Without the generosity of many individuals, I would not have been able to complete my articles. Also I've learned many valuable tips on editing articles and layouts, finding jobs, and doing research. The staff has spent considerable amounts of time supervising Paul and me. We were also taught how to use PhotoShop, QuarkXPress, and the basic functions of a digital camera.

This co-op experience is valuable to me because I realized that becoming an editor is not the job for me. It's better to realize it sooner than not knowing until it's too late. But I enjoyed every second of my time spent at George Brown College. I hope that other non-co-op students will take co-op to find out whether their dream job really suits them. Even though I decided journalism is not for me, I gained valuable experience that can be applied in other areas of study. Whatever I look from the Dialog I will cherish; I hope you will cherish whatever I left for you.

Sincerely,
Clifford Liu

El Presidente

THANK YOU all for your support before and during last election. There was a time when the idea of having better communication devices seemed impossible. I am quite pleased to tell you that what was once considered mission impossible, is now mission accomplished. I would like to take this opportunity to update you all on what I have done for you this summer. I have delivered on the idea that we will have better information sharing mechanisms. I have constructed a program called the ambassadors. This is a joint venture between the SA, Student Affairs and the President's Office. We will be hiring 25 students from all our campuses and train them in making presentation as they will be the vehicle for information throughout the college.

I have ordered suggestion boxes



by Andrea Simone

Unite to End Racism.

It has been a crazy month.

The World Trade Center attack is on the minds of people worldwide. I had just arrived to school Tuesday morning to hear the tragic news. Tragic indeed. Yet, I felt nothing. I felt no pity or remorse for the great number of lives lost. Even after watching it played over and over again on television, I still felt... nothing.

It was too unreal, like something out of a movie. These are sentiments that we hear too often. You know the scene that they always show of the plane crashing through the side of the building? It looked like a special effect from some big blockbuster hit. My initial reaction was shock. I was shocked that someone would go that far to kill so many innocent people. But at the same time I thought to myself, "wow, that looked cool, I wanna see it again." And I did, I saw it maybe, fifty times over again. That's the problem. I've been desensitized to this. I've seen one too many movies. I feel more guilt than I do pity. Guilt because I'm not able to grieve the way we all should be.

Now I hope I'm not coming across as shallow, because what happened was a tragedy. I wish only the best for all the victims and their family's. I want to do anything I can to help the situation.

One way to help is to promote unity, and to fend away racism. Everybody seems, to me, to be talking about revenge. Everyone want revenge in some form. The real question though is, against who? Some want it against all Muslim's or anyone that comes from a Middle-Eastern decent.

I think a lot of people are taking what they see on CNN and putting their utmost trust in it.

I don't know if you've seen it, but there's a clip going around the

news of a Middle-Eastern woman in a Middle-Eastern country cheering after hearing news of the World Trade Center attack. You must have seen it, they played the same five second clip all over every news channel. Now, I don't think this was a good idea for the media to have done. I have heard some really stupid comments being made from people who I once thought were intelligent.

No one thinks to think twice about the half-assed words that come out of their mouths.

Some people will hear the clip of the cheering woman, and suddenly, she represents not only her whole country, but every other Middle-Eastern persons living in North America and around the world. No one even noticed that the media only showed one side to the story. I didn't see anything from a different perspective.

That's it, Afghanistan deserves to be bombed because their government harbors BinLaden. It must be a country of terrorists. Right. It's the only thing that makes sense. If one woman is caught applauding this disaster, is it not safe to assume that every other Middle-Eastern woman, man and child will do the same thing. I don't care about the millions of innocent women and children. Those BASTARDS deserve whatever is coming their way. They are animals. All of them. Every single one. Without ANY exceptions.

Except the ones that are not terrorists.

It angers me when I turn on the T.V. and all I see are headlines reading *America Under Attack*. But, who's attacking America? Is there a war that I don't know about? Or is the media setting us up for one.

The People don't know it, but there is a war going on right here. A war against racism. So please, let's try to stop it.



Your President,
Kevin King

Erratum

In the Back to School Issue, in the address by Student Association President, Kevin King, we accidentally published one sentence twice.

The Dialog Collective regrets this error.

DIALOG COLLECTIVE NEWS

Our CUP runneth over

by Allan Stokell,
Dialog Collective

This is the second article in a series we are running on the debate concerning our continued involvement with the Canadian University Press (CUP).

In our last issue, we discussed the origins and history of CUP. Today we will explore the various services which CUP offers members.

In 1996, the Student Association of Seneca College pulled all the issues of their student newspaper because they felt an editorial criticized their President. The Editor and her entire staff resigned. It was almost two years before the paper published again and it still is a greatly reduced product.

Had Seneca been a member of CUP they could have taken advantage of CUP's support mechanisms for assisting endangered and embattled papers.

In 2000, staff of the McGill University paper became

involved in a dispute with their Student Union. CUP was able to mount a legal defence, assist the paper to continue publication and publicly embarrass the student politicians trying to restructure the paper.

Score one for CUP.

CUP offers training to new staff members. This autumn the Ontario Region CUP (ORCUP) will be holding a weekend conference at Brock University in St. Catharines. We hope to send as many as ten delegates to this conference so they will be able to learn valuable information from other student journalists. Workshops include classes in the use of Quark Xpress, the assembly program generally used in newspapers, and others on journalism taught by professional journalists. This is a worthwhile conference and we hope to have full involvement.

CUP also has a news wire service which many student papers use. This news wire offers stories that may be picked up by member papers. The stories are usually on topics that concern

students.

We rarely use the CUP wire stories because almost 100% of our content comes from our student community. One of our duties is to upload stories to the national wire service. We rarely have anything to upload because our stories are mostly of interest to the CBC community. I suppose that says good things about the Collective. We have more college content than most other student papers.

I urge all members of the Collective to consider the trip to St. Catharines. It will be an opportunity to meet other students producing papers in Ontario. Mathieu Vuell from Centennial College will be there to tell us how he does it as well as pros from Toronto and Buffalo newspapers. We need to pre-register before the end of the month, so I

urge you to register at the Collective office early. The Collective will pay the registration fee which includes food. You will be responsible for transportation and accommodation. Some students are already organising car pools and places to crash, so don't let that stop you from attending.

Our official delegate will be leaving on Thursday and will represent us at the Plenary sessions. We have another opportunity in January to attend the national CUP conference being held January 2002 in Ottawa.

To find out when the next meeting of the Dialog Collective is give us a call or drop by Dialog Collective office, room 167B SJ. More information at 416-415-2710.

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SPORTS

Wrestlemania XVIII is Toronto Bound

By Tony Cammalleri

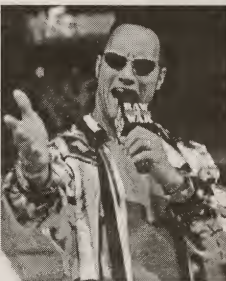
Forget the leprechauns and green coloured beer next St. Patrick's Day, because the World Wrestling Federation (WWF) is going to lay the *Smackdown* on the city of Toronto.

On March 17, 2002, the SkyDome will host Wrestlemania XVIII, the *Super Bowl* of professional wrestling. An expected 60,000 fans will jam the arena, breaking the previous record of 58,000 set last year for Wrestlemania XVIII, held in Houston's Astrodome.

Toronto became the first city outside of the United States to host Wrestlemania in 1990, where 56,000 fans watched the Ultimate Warrior defeat Hulk Hogan for the

WWF Championship in Wrestlemania VI.

Along with Toronto, Tampa Bay was the other city bidding



The Rock

for Wrestlemania XVIII. It was they continue to increase in

thought that Tampa Bay had the edge over Toronto, but the speculation ended on

September 3rd, when the WWF held a press conference in Nathan Phillips Square to award Toronto Wrestlemania.

In attendance were Ontario Premier Mike Harris, Toronto Mayor Mel Lastman, WWF owner Vince McMahon and WWF superstars such as the Rock and Stone Cold Steve Austin. When it came down to it, Toronto was the better choice to host Wrestlemania. While ratings for WWF programs like *Raw is War* and *Smackdown* have declined in the U.S.,

Canada. TSN's highest rated program is *Raw is War*, which airs Monday's at 9 pm.

Longtime wrestling fan Dennis Gunawan was ecstatic when he heard the news, "I missed Wrestlemania VI, but there's no way I'm going to miss this. I can't wait to see the *People's Elbow*, the *Stone Cold Stunner*, the *VanDam 5-star* and the *3-D*."

WWF sources say Wrestlemania will generate between four and five million dollars. Downtown restaurants, hotels and bars will be flooded with thousands and thousands of patrons, in anticipation for the big event.

WWF superstars will arrive in Toronto the Friday before Wrestlemania for WWF Access weekend. Wrestlers will sign autographs, make guest appearances across the city and will participate in various charity events.

Tickets for Wrestlemania XVIII go on sale Saturday,

November 3rd. Nose bleeds will cost around \$90 while the best seats in the house around \$300. To put things into perspective, scalpers stand to make more money from Wrestlemania tickets



Illustration by Tiffany

than they would *Backstreet Boys* or **Nsync* tickets.

The roof of the SkyDome better be open for Wrestlemania XVIII. If not, the stars of the WWF are likely to blow it off.

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TRY US-YOU'LL LIKE IT

Varsity Athletics Report

By David MacDonald

Once again, the George Brown College varsity sports programs are back in business with tryouts and practices beginning at both Casa Loma and St. James campuses. Check the Athletics boards throughout the College to find out information about the various teams and times, and "come out and try out!" Everyone is welcome!

The George Brown College Huskies Baseball Team is always the first to start "taking a bite" out of the competition. Practices began for this team in late August, and the schedule started September 8 with two games versus Queens University Gaels. The first game was a grueling 12-inning event, with the home team Huskies falling short 2-0. In game two, the Huskies "barked and growled" their way to a 5-2 lead, but by the time the dust settled on the diamond they found themselves on the short end of an 8-5 score. One highlight from this series was our first home run of the season, a monster shot to left by Graphics student and team leader Jeff Fox!

The team has played well, and has a 2-4 record so far after devouring Durham College Lords 4-1 and mashing McGill University Redbirds 6-3 in tournament play at Oshawa on September 15 & 16. George Brown placed second at this event. A special highlight from this past weekend was a complete game pitching performance from Hospitality's Ryan Fisher in the victory over McGill!

The final home game goes September 19 at Christie Pits, at Bloor & Christie at 7:00pm. The team will then travel to Ottawa for games versus Carleton and Ottawa Universities on the weekend. Watch out for playoff games to follow in October!

There are many other events & intramural sports for those who just want to participate, get some exercise and have fun! Again, check the boards or go to any Athletic office or facility to get more information on what's happening at the City College!

APPLE TITANIUM vs APPLE IBOOK

By Sean Carson

If you were to choose one of the Apple laptops, would you know which one to buy? Do the terms salesman use in the computer store baffle your mind? Or are you just wondering why you need to spend that extra money to buy something you might not necessarily need. This new technology section that you will see throughout the "dialog" newspaper, will hopefully help you make the right decisions and keep you from spending too much for something you will never need.

The Apple Titanium is one of the best laptops designed for the Graphic Artist in mind. Apple has filled it with so many technological tidbits that it will be hard to summarize its contents. The most important part about the Titanium is the use of Apple's renowned G4 Processor. There are two models of the Titanium with only a few differences, yet they are noticeable. The base model of the Titanium comes with the 400MHz G4 Processor, 128MB RAM, and a 10GB Hard Drive. For those concerned with the fastest possible, there is the top model which boasts a 500MHz G4 Processor, 256MB RAM, and a 20GB Hard Drive. Both models also carry a DVD-ROM, 56K Modem, Network Card, and an ATI Rage Mobility 128 Video Card. The external Ports include two USB, one Firewire, VGA output, S-video output, stereo sound output, and an infrared (IrDA). The amazing thing about this laptop is the large 15.2-inch screen. This is the largest screen in any laptop on the market. The weight of this laptop is also something that will make this product popular, at only 5.9 pounds. This is every Graphic Designer's dream built into something compact. Although this laptop is not something that just any Graphic Designer should rush out to buy, definitely consider looking at the Apple Titanium.

The cost of the Apple iBook and the cost of the Apple Titanium differ considerably causing confusion among those who don't know much about computers. The Apple iBook was originally designed by Apple to be a user-friendly computer, which a person of any age or knowledge would be able to run proficiently. It's sleek looks give the user a feeling of style. This laptop isn't

only for looks. It packs a punch with the 500MHz G3 Processor, which gives enough power for some of the most demanding jobs. While the base model of the iBook only comes with 64MB RAM, you can pay the extra to upgrade to one of the two higher models that contains 128MB RAM. For most users the base model is sufficient enough to complete their daily tasks, while a Graphic Design student might wish to get one of the higher models. There is ample space on the hard drive for the common user, but anyone who needs to save larger files would be wise to purchase an external ZIP Drive along with this laptop. Each of the three models comes with a different Optical Drive. The base model only comes with a regular 24x CD-ROM Drive, while the two higher models come with a DVD-ROM Drive and the top of the line comes with a combination of a DVD-ROM & CD-RW Drive. Once again, for most users, the base model is sufficient. The rest of the equipment on the laptop is generic across all models. Apple placed an ATI Rage Mobility 128 Video Card into the iBook, which gives all users plenty of graphical choices when running software or playing games. Of course, each laptop comes with a Modem so you can access the Internet when you're at home; yet for those of you with High Speed Internet access, there is a ready-to-use Network Card. The remainder of the laptop consists of the external Ports, which include two USB, one Firewire, VGA, composite video output, and a stereo sound output. This whole system weighs an incredible 4.9 pounds. The Apple iBook is a great laptop for those who need a mobile workstation, and not the extra power that is packed into the Apple Titanium. It's also a great choice for the money-cautious Graphic Designer.

Personally I would suggest that if you are looking to buy one of the following laptops, go for the iBook. For the price, you can't go wrong. The Apple Titanium was designed more for the tech junkies, like myself, whose obsession with speed and power causes us to buy something we never need. I find both of these products satisfying, and I personally endorse the use of an Apple laptop.



PowerBook G4 Specifications		
Model	M7952	M7710
Processor	400-MHz PowerPC G4	500-MHz PowerPC G4
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Memory (PC100 SDRAM)	128MB, supports up to 1GB	256MB, supports up to 1GB
Hard Disk Drive	10GB Ultra ATA/66	20GB Ultra ATA/66
Optical Drive	Slot-loading DVD-ROM with DVD-Video playback	256MB
Display	15.2-inch (diagonal) TFT, 1152 x 768 pixels, millions of colors	
Graphics Support	ATI Rage Mobility 128 video controller with 3MB SDRAM	
PC Card Slot	Accepts Type I or Type II PC Cards or CardBus cards	
Ethernet	Built-in 10/100BASE-T	
Modem	Built-in 56K V.90	
Wireless Networking	AirPort ready	
Ports	Firewire, two USB, VGA outputs, S-video output, stereo sound output, infrared (IrDA)	
Size and Weight	14.1 by 24.1 by 2.6 cm, 2.4 kg (13.4 by 9.5 by 1.0 inches, 5.3 pounds)	

George Brown College Computer Store Prices*

Apple Titanium	M7952: \$3175	M7710: \$4250	
Apple iBook	M7698: \$1930	M7692: \$2220	M8520: \$2705

*Taxes not included and prices are subject to change.

Apple iBook Specifications

Model	M7696	M7692	M8520
Processor	500-MHz PowerPC G3		
Level 2 cache	256K at 500MHz		
Memory (PC100 SDRAM)	64MB, supports up to 512MB	128MB, supports up to 640MB	
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FATHER ORDERED TO PAY "DESTITUTE" DAUGHTER'S TUITION.

Published: Tue-4-Sep-2001
By Neil Parmar, Alberta Bureau

EDMONTON (CUP) — An Alberta judge said in a recent ruling that pressures like working and going to university full-time may leave students "destitute" and in need of financial assistance.

In a case involving a 19-year-old female student, who cannot be named because she was a minor when the case originated, Justice Jack Watson ordered the woman's father to pay her tuition even though he is no longer obliged under Alberta's Parentage and Maintenance Act. As stipulated in the Act, the father legally fulfilled his financial responsibilities by

providing his daughter with child support until she turned 18.

However, it was under another provincial law, the Maintenance Order Act, that Watson based his ruling.

"I conclude that even talented young Albertans cannot readily perform two or more full-time burdensome and difficult tasks simultaneously," wrote Watson. "University or other forms of post-secondary education are an economic reality nowadays for young people."

Under the Maintenance Order Act, certain responsibilities are outlined for relatives in hopes of preventing poverty or incapacity within families. Among these obligations include the duty to provide for those who are destitute

and therefore not capable of working.

"There are a plethora of words given as having the same meaning as 'destitute,' some characterizing acute desperation, others not. It has also been defined as equivalent to 'needy' and 'poor' and 'improvised,'" Watson wrote.

"I cannot see that as involving a profound conceptual difference from the situation of a child unable to withdraw and obtain necessities for herself."

The father says he now plans to appeal the ruling to the Alberta Court of Appeal.

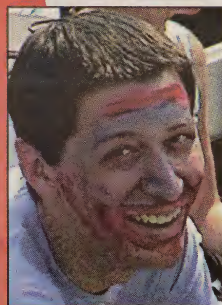
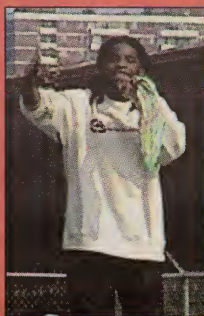
ROCK THE BLOCK



On Friday, September 7th, George Brown College held its annual "Rock The Block" event at the Casa Loma campus. It was oriented towards the first-year students in an attempt to get them to socialize.

There were many perks to this event, such as the free BBQ, a beer garden, live music and games. Even though not all first-year students knew about this event, it had the best attendance ever. Hopefully in the following years we will be able to interact with more first year students and spread the word about such school events.

However, Rock the Block still rocked.



WE ARE THE REASON I LIVE W I'm right here

By Antonio Siracusa

It was my first day on the job. I was very excited because I was looking forward to working with new people. I walked into the lunchroom and saw the big yellow and red harassment poster pinned up on the bulletin board. I walked over and started to read.

"No Frills recognizes the diverse and multi-cultural composition of its workforce and also appreciates the dignity and worth of each member. We provide fair and equitable rights and opportunities for all without discrimination. Every employee has the right to work in an environment free from harassment due to sex, colour, racial origin, creed, marital status, disability, age, ancestry, place of origin, ethnic origin, citizenship, record of offenses, or family status."

I had to force my jaw shut.

"But..." All I could think of was, "But where..." I was absolutely shocked. "BUT WHERE AM I?" How can they not put sexual orientation on the harassment policy? They've included every other minority—even criminals for God's sake, but not gays? Who am I? According to this I don't even exist in society. The word invisible screamed across my conscious. This is not right. It's not fair to me and every other gay person who works here. I was fuming, but I calmed myself down. I quickly wrote down the paragraph, which clearly didn't respect my life.

A few weeks later, I approached my boss and told her I needed to speak with her privately. Ironically, we ended up in the lunchroom where the harassment poster was located.

"What's on your mind Antonio?"

Pointing to the poster I said, "actually, this is. I am not listed under this policy."

My boss quickly read the policy. She was puzzled. "I don't understand...it clearly states everything under this policy?"

"No, I'm not there. It doesn't include sexual orientation"

"Oh...Your right. Antonio, are you saying that you're gay?"

"Yes, I am, and I'm deeply proud of it."

I read about 30 labels before I decided that Tylenol was the best bet. I looked for the medication which would cause the most damage. Working at Shoppers Drug Mart, I would get a 15% discount. Whoopee. I bought the package of 200 pills and used the leftover change to make a phone call.

I called my grandmother to wish her a happy birthday. I

could hear the rest of my family having a good time in the background.

As usual, I'm always the one left out. The laughing and conversation in the background drove me crazy. My family was over my grandmother's to celebrate her 65th birthday. Seeing as I had to work the night shift, I was missing the party. Everyone was there except me.

I found a bench at work and started to cry out loud. I was still crying when I got home. WHERE AM I? I'm so alone. All I could think about was the fun my family must of had. WHERE THE HELL AM I? I feel so invisible! Am I constantly going to feel left out for the rest of my life?

I sat alone, in complete darkness. I opened the package of pills. I had a flashback to when I was 10 years old. Kids were running all over the elementary

school playground, playing tag, or trying to find a good hiding spot. I just stood there alone, not wishing to participate. The only wish I had was to hide forever. Growing up, I always thought it was my destiny. Suicide. The flashback faded and tears were once again blurring my vision. At that moment, I lost all hope and decided to carry out that ill-fate.

I was looking forward to having my eyes close and never opening them again. After I had consumed 40 pills I stopped. I thought that would do the trick. I thought that would be enough for my body to stop working. I got into my bed, waved goodbye to the ceiling (saying goodbye to God) and closed my eyes.

I woke up and was not "asleep." I was angry the whole time I was in the hospital. I was angry at the fact that I was alive, that my heart was beating, and that the blood in my veins was circulating. I was angry at the nurses who kept checking up on me every hour and the doctors who always took blood samples to keep track of my Tylenol levels. Who am I to these people? I'm a nobody. I'm invisible. So why are they helping me? Why are they pretending like they give a shit when really, they don't. If they hadn't treated me in time I could have needed a liver transplant and I would have brain damage. However I was in perfect health. It was a miracle I was still alive. My constant crying was the only reminder that I am still human, and to a point, sane.

I haven't cried like that in a long time. Today I am such a different person. It's inconceivable that it was the same person one year ago who attempted to end his life of limitless potential. That person gave up without even trying. He didn't even get a chance to bloom into the person he could have been. Now I am a confident, proud individual who loves the fact that he's gay, and I might add that it is only one, albeit important, aspect of all that is me. I now stand up for myself, for my rights, and for my life in order for me to be happy. No one else is going to do it; therefore, I have to do it myself.

I used to always tell myself "If I were straight I would be so happy. So very happy." That's all I wished for, just to become straight. You know what I say to that today? To hell with it! If the Creator gave me a conscious choice when I was brought into this world to be either straight or gay, I love basking and revealing the fact that I'm gay. It took me 20 years to become satisfied with myself and to say that with confidence. A year ago, I hated it, and was disgusted by it, sickened, and revolted by it.

Today I embrace it, accept it, and love it. Completely. There is a new poster hanging in the lunchroom that includes the words sexual orientation. So now, the next guy who comes along, who might be contemplating suicide because he's gay, will read the policy and think "this place accepts me. This place won't harass me, I must be okay!"

Instead of... "WHERE AM I?" he'll say, "I'M RIGHT HERE."

—Antonio writes for queer television. If you would like to read more of his advice to other gay youth go to QOnline.com at the Corner of Young and Queer. —You can reach Antonio at pride@ica.net.

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BEER 101

by Malt Disney

What you really need to know about Canada's most popular beverage.

Beer is often described as a alcoholic beverage made from malt and flavoured with hops. It's a bit like describing sex as a union between two people.

Yes, a lot is missed when someone decides to talk



Mmm, beer... the Nectar of the Gods!

about beer.

First off, beer has been around almost as long as wine. Everyone can understand how wine was first produced. Our overly hairy ancestors, enjoying the juice of the grape, accidentally left some out one night and within a few days, the yeast from the skins started the fermentation process that changes sugar into alcohol.

Yeh, well try to explain beer.

I personally believe beer was given to us by space aliens, because this is how beer is made.

First you have to collect grains, we prefer barley, but you can use anything from sorghum to wheat.

Then you must make a porridge like mixture and heat it to a exactly temperature and hold it there for just under an

hour while the starches of the grain turn into sugars.

The liquid is drained off and the spent grains are showered with warm water to get full extraction of the good stuff. Once this magic occurs, the liquid must be boiled with it's flavouring ingredients, usually hops.

Hops are the chartreuse green flowers of the hop vine, a pernicious vine-like weed that often grows 20 metres in a single year. They contain bitter alpha oils and were originally used to prevent beer from becoming infected with acidobacteria which turns good beer into malt vinegar.

After a while our ancestors began to appreciate the yin-yang sweet malt contrasting with bitter herbs. Before that they used almost anything as a flavouring ingredient from herbs to fruit.

At any rate, the flavourings were added to the malt and the mixture boiled for a good long while then cooled. For the past several hundred years we have been adding a cultured yeast once the wort was cooled. Before that the alewife would simply wait for spontaneous fermentation. If you want to get an idea what 12th century beer tasted like, get yea down to yond spirit merchant and ask for Lambic.

Modern beer is divided into two common categories, ales and lagers.

Ales are fermented at room temperature using a top fermenting ale yeast. Lagers are fermented cold with a bottom fermenting lager yeast. Once fermentation is complete, most of the sugars have been changed from sugar to alco-

hol. Beers with a higher percentage of sugars will contain a higher percentage of alcohol.

That said, there are lots of variations and variables. Some ales are fermented with lager yeast, Pilseners are lagers too, and so on.

If you are interested in getting together for an informational beer tasting, please contact me at

dialog@canada.com



Beer drinking is a favorite pastime for many George Brown College students.

Q: Who will eat 400,000 sausages and drink 5,000,000 litres of beer.

A: The 6,000,000 people who will celebrate...



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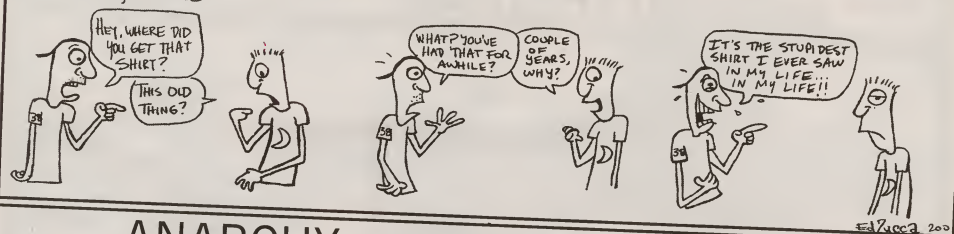
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ENTERTAINMENT

Half Moon Shirt by Ed Zucca



ANARCHY

By Joseph Farrugio

So, you what to party, eh?! Yet, you don't know what to do and you don't want to do the same old thing again. Well, on a late Friday night in January of last year, friends and I were having this same old dilemma; one of which most students and club hoppers panic about. However, we heard about this little dark gothic hangout called the Anarchist Lounge.

Now we are not 'Goths' but we do have a few friends that are and had suggested checking this place out. So, we rummaged through our closets and pulled out every black article of clothing that we could possibly find: black pants, black skirts, black shirts, black fishnet stockings, black, black and even more black. After over two and a half hours of figuring out what we had and how to put it together, we were on our way.

My outfit consisted of black pants, shirt, and hat and I finished off my look with black eyeliner, heavy mascara and my shiny white lip-gloss... essential for this little gay boie's attire. One friend spiced things up by wearing her fishnet stockings, and the shortest, sexiest black shirt that I had ever seen. The time now was 10:30 p.m., and off we went. We met up with two other good friends of ours; one of which was wearing tight black leather pants and the other decided to funky up his hair and spiked it up high and wore heavy, chunky black boots.



Keep in mind that one doesn't need to go all 'freaky' to get into the Anarchist Lounge but there is a dress code in effect for Friday nights: dark!

We stood at a nearby corner scared to death that we wouldn't fit in and that the club regulars wouldn't be accepting of newcomers. Personally, I was a little worried about going in because I wasn't sure if the crowd would be accepting of this gay boy, who was wearing heavy eye make up

and lip-gloss. To our delightful surprise, the people were extremely friendly, fun and fabulous. The individuals in the club were made up of all races and sexual orientations. All were there with the intentions of having a good night with friends and fun people. The music was loud, cool, diverse and accessible for some serious partying. Tracks ranged from Eraser to Marilyn Manson to Underworld.

We left the club with huge smiles, tired feet and an ambition to return. So, my suggestion to all you fun party people is to keep an open mind when it comes to checking out new hangouts or clubs. Toronto offers many great clubs and lounges. Whether you're into a particular scene or lifestyle, don't be bashful and check out something out of your ordinary. Who knows? Maybe there is a little dark boy or girl in you!

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